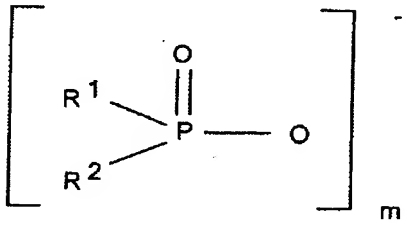
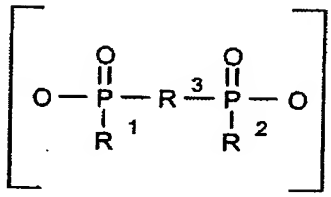
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition ~~which comprises, as~~comprising a flame retardant~~,~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~at least one~~a phosphinic salt of the formula (I) ~~and/or~~ a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) ~~and/or polymers of these~~ a polymer of formula (I), a polymer of formula (II) and mixtures thereof



$$M^{m+} \qquad (I)$$



$$M_x^{m+} \qquad (II)$$

where

R^1,R^2 are identical or different and are C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, ~~and/~~or aryl;

R^3 is C_1-C_{10}-alkylene, linear or branched, C_6-C_{10}-arylene, -alkylarylene or –arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K ~~and/~~or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4; and

x is from 1 to 4,

and ~~also comprises~~ at least one synergistic component from the group consisting of organic ~~or~~ and inorganic phosphorus compounds.

2. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, ~~and/~~or phenyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl ~~and/~~or phenyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.

5. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylene or naphthylene.

6. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene or tert-butylnaphthylene.

7. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene or phenylbutylene.

8. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7, which comprises~~claim 1, comprising from 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these, and~~the flame retardant, and from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the at least one synergistic component, ~~an organic phosphorus compound,~~

per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound.

9. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7, which comprises~~claim 1, comprising from 1 to 15 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these~~the flame retardant, and from 1 to 20 parts by weight of the at least one synergistic component~~an organic phosphorus compound~~, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound.

10. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of triethyl phosphate, triaryl phosphates, tetraphenyl resorcinaldiphosphate, ~~diemthyl~~ dimethyl methylphosphonate, ~~and/or its~~dimethyl methylphosphonate polymer with phosphorus pentoxide, phosphonate ester, (5-ethyl-2-methyl-dioxaphosphorinan-5-yl)methyl methyl methanephosphonate, phosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric ester, alkylphosphonic acids, and/~~or~~ oxalkylated derivatives of ~~these~~alkylphosphonic acids.

11. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, comprising from 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these~~the flame retardant and from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of ~~an inorganic phosphorus compound~~the at least one synergistic component, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound.

12. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, comprising from 1 to 15 parts by weight of ~~phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or~~

~~polymers of these~~the flame retardant, and from 1 to 20 parts by weight of ~~an inorganic phosphorus compound~~the at least one synergistic component, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound .

13. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein the at least one synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of red phosphorus, ammonium phosphate, and/~~or~~ melamine polyphosphate.

14. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 13, which also comprises carbodiimides~~claim 1, further comprising at least one carbodiimide.

15. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 14, which is~~claim 1, wherein the thermoset composition is selected from the group consisting of a molding composition, a coating or a laminate made from thermoset resins.

16. (Original) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the thermoset resins are unsaturated polyester resins or epoxy resins.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16, which comprises~~claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with ~~a~~ the flame retardant ~~made from phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these with~~ and the at least one synergistic component ~~from the group consisting of organic or inorganic phosphorus compounds~~to form a mixture, and wet-pressing ~~(cold-pressing)~~ the ~~resultant~~ mixture at ~~pressures~~ a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at ~~temperatures~~ a temperature of from 20 to 60°C.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16, which comprises~~claim 1 comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with ~~a~~ the flame retardant ~~made from phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these with~~and the at least one synergistic component ~~from the group consisting of organic or inorganic phosphorus compounds~~to form a mixture, and wet-pressing ~~(warm- or hot-pressing)~~ the ~~resultant~~ mixture at ~~pressures~~ a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at ~~temperatures~~ a temperature of from 80 to 150°C.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16, which comprises~~claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with ~~a~~ the flame retardant ~~made from phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and/or polymers of these with~~and the at least one synergistic component ~~from the group consisting of organic or inorganic phosphorus compounds~~to form a mixture, and processing the ~~resultant~~ mixture at ~~pressures~~ a pressure of from 50 to 150 bar and at ~~temperatures~~ a temperature of from 140 to 160°C to give prepregs.

20. (New) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein said wet-pressing step further comprises cold-pressing.

21. (New) The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the wet-pressing step further comprises warm or hot pressing.